

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 25 were pending in this matter.

Claims 23 to 25 are allowed.

Claims 14, 21, 22 were objected to but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent format.

Claims 12, 18, and 22 have been amended herein.

Claims 1 to 11, 14 and 21 have been canceled herein without prejudice.

Claims 12, 13, 15 to 20, and 22 to 25 will remain pending upon entry of this Amendment.

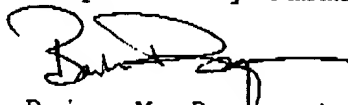
Claims 12, 18, 22, 23, and 25 will be the only pending independent claims.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 to 13, 15 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sandorfi et al. (newly cited, U.S. Pat. # 5,590,122). Claims 3, 4, 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandorfi et al. in view of pages 1-5 including tables 1-2 and Figs. 1-2 of Applicants' specification. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. However, solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 12 and 18 herein to include the features of claims 14 and 21, respectively, which the Examiner has indicated are allowable. Also, as suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have rewritten claim 22 in independent form including all of the features of original claim 18.

**Conclusion**

The Applicants believe all the pending claims as amended are now in condition for allowance, and respectively request reconsideration of the same. The Applicants do not believe any fees are due regarding this amendment. If any fees are required, however, please charge Deposit Account No. **04-1696**. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



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